CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously presented) A method for reducing a level of amyloid-β (Aβ) peptides in vivo, which method comprises administering an Aβ level reducing dose of an estrogen compound to an animal, wherein the animal has an increased level of Aβ, and wherein the dose of the estrogen compound does not affect soluble APP levels.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the level of amyloid is a level of soluble amyloid in the brain of the animal.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the estrogen compound is 17β-estradiol.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the estrogen compound is a composition of conjugated equine estrogen.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the Aβ peptides comprise Aβ42 and ~~β40~~Aβ40, which method further comprises reducing the ratio of Aβ42 to Aβ40.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the Aβ peptides are Aβ42 peptides.

7-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A method for delaying or reducing the likelihood of, or ameliorating, a disease or disorder associated with Aβ amyloidosis, which method comprises administering an Aβ level reducing dose of 17β-estradiol to a subject who has an increased risk for developing or shows a symptom of the disease or disorder associated with amyloidosis, wherein the dose of 17β-estradiol does not affect soluble APP levels.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the 17β-estradiol is administered daily for at least ten days.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the 17β-estradiol is administered by a controlled release device.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the disease or disorder associated with amyloidosis is Alzheimer's disease.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein a ratio of Aβ42 to Aβ40 is reduced in the subject.

26-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the dose of conjugated equine estrogen is administered to a human and is selected from the group consisting of 0.3 mg, 0.625 mg, 1.25 mg, and 2.5 mg.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the Aβ level reducing dose is about 0.5 μg 17β-estradiol per kg body weight to about 50 mg 17β-estradiol per kg body weight, per day.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the Aβ level reducing dose is about 5 μg 17β-estradiol per kg body weight to about 10 mg 17β-estradiol per kg body weight, per day.